

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY LISBON

UNCLAS STATE 170315

E.O. 11652:N/A TAGS: PFOR, US

SUBJECT: RADIO LIBERTY

REF: STATE 165584

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD JULY 1, CONTAINS FOLLOWING  
ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS REGARDING U.S. RADIO FACILITIES  
IN SPAIN:

SEN. PASTORE: "...IN CONNECTION WITH THE APPROPRIATION  
FOR THE BOARD FOR INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING, I WOULD  
LIKE TO POINT OUT THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS  
WHICH WILL RECONVENE VERY SOON IN MADRID FOR A RENEWAL OF  
THE RADIO LIBERTY LEASE ON TRANSMITTER FACILITIES IN  
SPAIN. THESE TRANSMITTERS FURNISH FOUR-FIFTHS OF THE  
POWER FOR THESE SIGNIFICANT BROADCASTS TO THE SOVIET UNION.

"ALTHOUGH THE FACILITIES ARE NOW THE PROPERTY OF THE  
SPANISH GOVERNMENT, IT IS WORTH RECALLING THAT THEY WERE  
ORIGINALLY BUILT, BETWEEN 1957 AND 1959, WITH U.S.  
GOVERNMENT FUNDS. IN FISCAL YEAR 1976, THE BOARD HAS  
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EXPENDED MORE THAN \$3,000,000 IN PERSONNEL AND POWER

COSTS, AS WELL AS VARIOUS FEES, TO MAINTAIN AND OPERATE THE SIX HIGH-POWER TRANSMITTERS IN SPAIN WHICH HAVE A COMBINE RATING OF 1,350,000 WATTS. I MENTION THESE FACTS TO INDICATE THAT THE ARRANGEMENT HAS BEEN BENEFICIAL TO SPAIN AS WELL AS TO US.

THE BOARD FOR INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING IS ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN A LONG-TERM RENEWAL OF THIS LEASE. THE BOARD HAS ESTIMATED THAT, IF IT WERE FORCED TO SET UP A NEW TRANSMITTER BASE IN ANOTHER COUNTRY AND INSTALL NEW TRANSMITTERS OF EQUIVALENT POWER, THE COSTS-AT PRESENT PRICE LEVELS- WOULD EXCEED \$20,000,000. MOREOVER, THE QUALITY OF THE BROADCAST SIGNAL MIGHT NOT BE AS GOOD AS FROM THE TRANSMITTERS IN SPAIN, WHICH IS IDEAL FOR SHORTWAVE RADIO PROPAGATION TO EUROPEAN RUSSIA AND THE BALTIC STATES, AREAS INHABITED BY MORE THAN 150 MILLION SOVIET CITIZENS.

"IN VIEW OF THE VARIOUS OTHER FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS WHICH OUR GOVERNMENT HAS MADE TO SPAIN, I SINCERELY HOPE THAT THE SPANISH AUTHORITIES WILL SHOW A PROPER UNDERSTANDING OF OUR STRONG INTEREST IN RENEWING THIS LEASE."

JULY 1: SEN.HRUSKA: "...FINALLY MR. PRESIDENT, I WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT ON THE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE BOARD FOR INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING AND POINT OUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE IN MADRID FOR A RENEWAL OF RADIO LIBERTY LEASE OF TRANSMITTER FACILITIES IN SPAIN. THIS TRANSMITTER COMPLEX FURNISHES OVER 80 PERCENT OF THE POWER FOR THESE IMPORTANT BROADCASTS TO THE SOVIET UNION.

"THE FACILITIES ARE THE PROPERTY OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT, BUT WE MUST REMEMBER THAT THEY WERE ORIGINALLY BUILT, BETWEEN 1957 AND 1959, WITH U.S. GOVERNMENT FUNDS. DURING FISCAL YEAR 1976, MORE THAN \$3 MILLION WAS SPENT FOR PERSONNEL, POWER, AND MISCELLANEOUS COSTS TO MAINTAIN AND OPERATE THE SIX HIGH-POWER TRANSMITTERS IN SPAIN. THESE FACTS ARE IMPORTANT AS THEY INDICATE THAT THIS ARRANGEMENT IS NOT ONE-SIDED BUT HAS BEEN BENEFICIAL TO SPAIN AS WELL.

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"THE BOARD FOR INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING IS ATTEMPTING NOW TO OBTAIN A LONG-TERM RENEWAL OF THIS LEASE. THE BOARD HAS ESTIMATED THAT, IF IT HAD TO REPLACE THIS INSTALLATION WITH A NEW TRANSMITTER BASE IN ANOTHER COUNTRY AND INSTALL NEW TRANSMITTERS OF EQUIVALENT POWER, THE COSTS-AT CURRENT PRICE LEVELS-WOULD EXCEED \$20 MILLION. EQUALLY AS IMPORTANT IS THE FACT THAT THE QUALITY OF THE BROADCAST SIGNAL MIGHT NOT BE AS GOOD AS FROM THE TRANSMITTERS IN SPAIN,

WHICH IS IDEAL FOR SHORTWAVE RADIO BROADCASTING TO AREAS IN-  
HABITED BY MORE THAN TWO-THIRDS OF ALL THE SOVIET CITIZENS.

"IN VIEW OF THE VARIOUS OTHER FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS  
WHICH WE HAVE MADE JUST LAST WEEK TO SPAIN, I SINCERELY  
HOPE THAT THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT WILL UNDERSTAND OUR STRONG  
INTEREST IN RENEWING THIS LEASE." KISSINGER

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